

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Advocates Recognized for Problem Gambling  
Prevention and Treatment Programs**

SACRAMENTO – Two individuals, a casino, and a government organization will receive awards today for their advocacy in promoting problem gambling prevention and treatment, as well as responsible gaming in California.

The awards will be presented at a luncheon during the **2011 Problem Gambling Training Summit** hosted by the Office of Problem Gambling (OPG), a division of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, at the Radisson Hotel Sacramento. The programs and services of the OPG are funded by the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund; no State general funds were expended for the training summit.

The award recipients have devoted significant time and energy to confronting the chronic disease of problem gambling, a disease that affects more than one million people in California.

**Dr. Gary Lange**, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Addictions Specialist located in Rancho Mirage, is being recognized for his contributions in problem gambling treatment services. Lange is an expert trainer for the California Problem Gambling Treatment Services Program—a statewide program that provides free face-to-face treatment for problem gamblers—and has been a professor of psychology at Cal State University, San Bernardino, for 20 years.

The *California Council on Problem Gambling Lifetime Achievement Award* will go to **Dr. Durand Jacobs**, a professor of medicine at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Jacobs has been directly involved in training health professionals in the research and treatment of addictive behaviors for the past 40 years. In 1972, he was instrumental in establishing the first inpatient treatment program for compulsive gamblers. He received an international achievement award from McGill University's International Centre for Youth Gambling and High-risk Behaviors for his contributions to the field of youth gambling.

The **Commerce Casino**, located near downtown Los Angeles, will receive this year's responsible gambling award. Commerce Casino's pioneering efforts include producing a training video for employees of gaming establishments that teaches staff to identify problem gamblers. Commerce Casino created and implemented a responsible gambling program prior to the establishment of regulations requiring such a program.

The **California Gambling Control Commission** (CGCC) is being recognized for its continuing efforts to mandate responsible gambling programs and minimum internal controls for California cardrooms. CGCC is responsible for setting policy, establishing regulations, conducting audits, and making determinations of suitability for gaming employees and other individuals and entities. It also issues licenses, acts as the administrator of gaming revenues deposited into the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund, and is the trustee for revenues deposited into the Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Trust Fund.

**Background on the Office of Problem Gambling:**

In 2003, the California Welfare & Institutions Code established the OPG as a division of ADP. OPG operates under a mandate to provide a statewide plan, prevention services, a program to support treatment services, a toll-free 24-hour telephone help-line, research and public awareness campaigns for the residents of California. OPG's prevention and treatment programs focus on reducing the prevalence of problem and pathological gambling in the state. OPG is funded by the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund; no State general fund money is expended for its programs and services.

Help is available for problem gamblers by calling the 24-hour hotline 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537) and on the Internet at <http://www.problemgambling.ca.gov>.